

Dear Speaker Boehner, Chairman Chaffetz, Chairman Kline and Chairman Rokita:

On behalf of **District of Columbia International School (DCI)** in Washington DC I am writing to thank you for your leadership for H.R. 10, the reauthorization of the SOAR Act, and to express support for the proposal.

I have been on the founding team of two Charter Schools here in DC - DCI and Washington Yu Ying PCS. They are both high performing and incredibly innovative. Yu Ying is a Chinese Immersion elementary school that I served as Executive Director of from Founding until 2012.

Since then, I have worked to open DCI a secondary school that allows students from immersion language elementary schools to continue their education. DCI provides advanced language learning in Chinese, French and Spanish, and the the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Program in a 1:1 technology environment to DC public middle and high school students.

The SOAR act has been instrumental in the creation of these schools - growth, academic and facilities funding from SOAR have enabled us to build these programs. These SOAR dollars are helping to develop students who are not only fluent in Spanish, Chinese or French culture and language but also prepared with the technology and learning skills for success in the 21st century.

At DCI and Yu Ying we currently serve almost 1000 students. As DCI grows we will serve 2000. I send both of my children to these schools. And moreover I know many of our families stay in the District just to ensure their children receive this incredible public education.

Thank you for your support for DC students and families. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance. And please contact me if you would like to visit DCI, I would love to give you a tour.

Sincerely,

Mary Shaffner

Executive Director  
DC International School